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General and complete disarmament

Relationship between disarmament and development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/40. It discusses recent trends in the further strengthening within the United Nations of the relationship between disarmament and development. In addition, the report contains information received from Governments on the subject.

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I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 67/40, entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development", the Assembly stressed the central role of the United Nations in the disarmament-development relationship and requested the Secretary-General to strengthen further the role of the Organization in this field. In paragraph 2 of the resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to take action, through appropriate organs and within available resources, for the implementation of the action programme adopted at the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development.[1] In paragraph 7 of the resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its sixty-eighth session on the implementation of the resolution. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.

2. In addition, in paragraph 6 of the resolution, the General Assembly reiterated its invitation to Member States to provide the Secretary-General with information regarding measures and efforts to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development.

3. On 18 March 2013, the Secretariat sent a note verbale to Member States seeking their views. At the time of writing, replies had been received from the following Member States: Armenia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Colombia, Iraq, Portugal, Qatar, and Spain. This information is contained in section III below.

II. Further strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the disarmament-development relationship

4. Progress in disarmament can create a conducive environment for development, and vice versa. In particular, an excessive accumulation of arms in a country can have a negative impact on its development. While arms in themselves may not be the root cause of violence and conflict, their spread and easy availability, and the increased likelihood of their diversion and misuse, can endanger stability and welfare as well as diminish investors' confidence and lead to social inequality.[2]

5. The 2012 outcome document of the Second United Nations Conference to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,[3] included a reference to development-related themes such as measurability and promoting sustainable development, and noted for the first time the value of assessing the effectiveness of international cooperation and assistance.

6. An important step towards better regulating international transfers of conventional arms was taken with the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty in April 2013. In the Treaty, recognition is given to the social, economic and humanitarian consequences of the illicit and unregulated arms trade, and the challenges faced by

[1] See *Report of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, New York, 24 August-11 September 1987* (A/CONF.130/39).

[2] See A/64/228; A/64/153; A/65/132; A/66/168; A/67/186.

[3] A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4.

victims of armed conflict and their need for adequate care, rehabilitation and social and economic inclusion.

7. The legacy of armed conflict is prolonged underdevelopment and countries affected by armed conflict are less likely to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Discussions on the post-Millennium Development Goals provide an opportunity to recognize at the highest level that security, armed violence and development are interlinked and that there is a need to include a goal into the post-2015 development agenda targeting the reduction of violence. The need to include peace and security into the post-2015 development framework was emphasized in the report of the High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Agenda as one of the four key dimensions of development where progress is needed. Inclusion of a goal targeting reduction of violence will require sustained investment, not only in arms control, but also in support of law enforcement capacity-building, violence prevention strategies, local governance, citizen security, and a range of measures intended to improve the responsiveness and oversight of national justice and security sector institutions.

8. Within the United Nations, the main coordination mechanisms on issues that potentially bring together arms and development, remain the United Nations Mine Action Team, the Coordinating Action on Small Arms,[4] and the Inter-Agency Working Group on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration. These mechanisms ensure that the United Nations, in accordance with the action programme of the final document of the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, continues to promote an interrelated perspective within the overall objective of promoting international peace and security.

III. Information received from Governments

Armenia

[Original: English]
[8 May 2013]

As a developing country, the Republic of Armenia faces certain inherent difficulties in providing for sustainable socioeconomic development. At the meantime, Armenia is involved in the conflict with a neighbouring country, which is characterized by a wide-scale military build-up and permanent threats of use of force coming from the side of the adversary.

Under the above-mentioned conditions the Ministry of Defense of Armenia is prioritizing strict compliance with the existing arms control regime and implementation of limited disarmament programmes. In this regard we deem necessary the extension of assistance by the international community to such programmes.

Implementation of limited disarmament programmes has a positive impact on the socioeconomic situation of Armenia. Thus, in 2006, 872 tons of "mélange" rocket fuel were reprocessed into 5,000 tons of nitrogen fertilizers through the

[4] The Coordinating Action on Small Arms provides United Nations internal coordination on small arms, arms trade and ammunition issues.

assistance of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and donor countries. The fertilizers were provided to the farmers free of charge for the purpose of treating more than 1,300 hectares of arable land. The economic effect of the programme amounted to more than $2.5 million dollars.

Long-term demining programmes through the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme, the United States of America and Switzerland are being implemented on the territory of Armenia for the past 10 years. Some 200 hectares of arable land cleared of mines have been allocated to farmers. Much more vast territories were examined and the safety of movement was ensured.

Armenia has initiated a programme of dismantling and utilization of 111 pieces of tanks and armoured combat vehicles. An initial feasibility study has already been carried out by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). If implemented successfully, it will produce significant volume of scrap metal to be reprocessed for further use.

In crisis situations, such as landslides, man-made and natural disasters, the Armed Forces' capabilities are put to the service of the civilian population.

Burkina Faso

[Original: French]
[13 June 2013]

As is well known, violence and crime hamper productivity, economic growth and States' ability to meet their development goals.

For this reason, the relationship between disarmament and development has always been a subject of discussion within various organs of the United Nations. Moreover, the link between arms and human and economic resources is explicitly recognized in Article 26 of the Charter of the United Nations. There is thus a fundamental link between disarmament and development at both the community and the individual levels. In fact, the consequences of the arms race undermine the development potential of the communities and individuals involved.

General Assembly resolution 67/40, entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development", reflects the international community's concerns regarding military expenditures and their impact on development. Although the Charter calls upon States to devote the least amount of the world's human and economic resources to the maintenance of international peace and security, military expenditures have been increasing steadily. In response, and bearing in mind the challenges for the international community in the fields of development, poverty eradication and the elimination of diseases that afflict humanity, the United Nations has adopted a series of resolutions promoting disarmament in order to respond more effectively to development needs, especially those of developing countries.

Disarmament and control of military expenditure are matters of great concern to the Government of Burkina Faso. Accordingly, it has established a security policy that reflects its economic realities. However, the Government is of the view that disarmament is a less pressing issue for developing countries that possess only the minimum of military resources necessary for their defence.

It is the developed countries that have the largest military budgets. Resources released from the implementation of disarmament measures could have a significant impact on the lives of thousands of people worldwide. This is why Burkina Faso advocates increased commitment to disarmament on the part of countries with the largest military arsenals.

Burundi

[Original: French]
[15 May 2013]

Introduction

Burundi is emerging gradually from its recurring crises of the past decade. Elections were held in a very positive and secure atmosphere, leading to the establishment of democratic institutions. The sociopolitical and security situation is now relatively favourable nationwide. The Burundian people are working to build peace, the source of sustainable development.

Despite some isolated incidents of armed violence, the Government has made security and development its major concerns, as reflected in two national development strategy papers: Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper II and Vision 2025.

A national action plan and a national strategy for the non-proliferation of small arms and light weapons and civilian disarmament have been developed and adopted, in order to implement the Government's disarmament strategy.

A standing national commission for the non-proliferation of small arms and light weapons has been established, and legislation governing small arms and light weapons in Burundi has been updated and aligned with the country's international commitments on the topic.

The legislation in question makes reference to punishments contained in the Penal Code for offences related to the illegal possession of small arms and light weapons, including prison sentences ranging from two to 10 years and/or fines ranging from 100,000 to 5,000,000 Burundi francs.

1. Relationship between disarmament and development

Non-proliferation in general and disarmament in particular are prerequisites for peace and sustainable development.

Aware that violence and crime are obstacles to productivity, economic growth and the ability of States to meet their development goals, the Government of Burundi has long developed a policy of voluntary civilian disarmament and reduction of the State's weapons stockpiles through the destruction of obsolete weapons and ammunition.

That policy took into account some of the public's concerns regarding living conditions in order to achieve its objectives.

Since the voluntary disarmament campaign, which began in 2009 and has resulted, thus far, in the removal from circulation of more than 3,400 rifles, 18,000 grenades and 350,000 cartridges, the Armed Violence Observatory has confirmed a

drop in armed violence of some 38 per cent. The resultant atmosphere of greater public calm has enabled people to attend to their daily development activities undisturbed.

What is more, as a social reinsertion measure, materials handed out as compensation for weapons turned in, consisting of 6,686 bags of cement, 12,667 pieces of sheet metal, 1,562 hoes, 284 bicycles, 2,370 pieces of loincloth, 169 cellular phones, 149 plastic chairs, 26,274 bars of soap, 3 television sets and 1 DVD player, have helped to raise beneficiaries' living standards.

2. Conclusion

Despite great strides made in the area of security, civilian firearm possession remains a security concern in Burundi. Isolated acts of violence are often committed using weapons.

An integrated security and development strategy has therefore been developed to control the crime rate. The goal is to effectively address the proliferation of small arms and light weapons by adopting a participatory and inclusive approach involving grassroots community associations, civil society, faith-based and youth organizations, etc. This strategy includes the mainstreaming of gender into programmes aimed at raising awareness of the non-proliferation of small arms and light weapons in general, and the surrender of illegal weapons in particular.

This approach is based on the idea that sustainable peace can be ensured only if people are willing to surrender their weapons and embrace peace and development. In that context, disarmament and reconciliation at the community level are considered preconditions for community development.

Communities that have demonstrated their commitment to peace through well-organized, effective disarmament activities will have access to community development microprojects.

Colombia

[Original: Spanish]
[11 April 2013]

It is a priority of Colombia's foreign and domestic policy to promote development. Accordingly, from a national standpoint and in its relations with the international community, Colombia is working to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

As part of its democratic prosperity policy, the Government allocates considerable resources to meet the challenges set out in resolution 67/40, in the areas of development, poverty eradication and elimination of the diseases that afflict humanity.

In line with the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the relationship between disarmament and development in the current international context, Colombia advocates increasing awareness in the international community of the relationship between the two concepts, and adopting a broad range of measures to prevent conflicts, in particular, measures relating to illicit small arms and light weapons; the promotion of security through greater transparency and trust

among States; and a greater part to be played in so doing by the United Nations, other international institutions and the donor community.

As indicated in paragraph 14 of the Final Document of the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, the enhancement of security has not only military but also political, economic, social, humanitarian and human rights and ecological aspects. Colombia is therefore firmly convinced that disarmament and a reduction of illicit trade in all types of weapons, munitions and ordnance contributes to security and, thereby, to development.

In 2008, Colombia also endorsed the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, which was adopted on 7 June 2006. In so doing, it demonstrated its understanding that the relationship between armed violence and development cuts both ways, in that armed violence generates significant costs for the country and delays its development, while impediments to development and the situation of poverty and exclusion in turn foster armed violence. The Government and the people of Colombia have therefore undertaken with conviction the commitments of the international community to effectively address the prevention and reduction of armed violence and analyse the impact of those policies on the development goals of our societies.

In that regard, it is important to note that Colombia participates actively in the Core Group of the Geneva Declaration, where it has stressed the need to ensure that political commitments are reflected on the ground, through the establishment of cooperation mechanisms and a good-practices inventory, the sharing of experiences in prevention and reduction of armed violence, and the promotion of policies that foster development.

Iraq

[Original: Arabic]
[3 April 2013]

The Republic of Iraq affirms that the right to development is an inalienable human right and that equality of opportunity is a prerogative of both nations and their peoples. The Government of the Republic of Iraq is convinced that the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations regarding international cooperation can contribute to solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian nature and to strengthening the culture of peace and disarmament.

International peace and security are fundamental components in the realization of the right to development. In accordance with the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, we reaffirm that there is a close relationship between disarmament and development, and that progress in the former would help greatly in the realization of the latter. Resources released as a result of the implementation of disarmament measures should be devoted to the economic and social development and the well-being of all peoples, especially the peoples of developing countries.

We stress the need for a multilateral approach to issues relating to disarmament and development. The Republic of Iraq believes that the United

Nations and the competent international organizations have a vital role to play in that area.

Efforts must be made to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by encouraging the international community to adopt and apply unilateral, bilateral and multilateral disarmament measures, which would inevitably contribute to the realization of those Goals. Reallocating some of the resources spent on armament and military forces to development would result in significant progress towards achieving the Goals.

The Republic of Iraq endorses the position that the resources of developing countries must not be spent on armament at a time when they are needed for social and economic development, as the peaceful resolution of conflicts and the prevalence of peace, democracy and non-interference in the internal affairs of States would all help to leverage resources for development.

Portugal

[Original: English]
[6 June 2013]

1. International instruments

Portugal is party to all the relevant disarmament conventions, such as the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (Ottawa Convention) and the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which establish the obligation of States parties to destroy their existing stockpile of landmines and cluster munitions, but also to conduct clearance activities in mined areas under their jurisdiction. In fact, the aforementioned weapons gravely hinder the economic and social development of affected communities by preventing access to farmland, pastures, and other vital resources.

As one of the coordinators for the universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Portugal has been engaging, for the past two years, with all United Nations Member States in order to promote this landmark convention, which is still the sole multilateral instrument that aims at putting an end to the civilian suffering and casualties caused by cluster munitions.

Portugal regrets that the international community has thus far been unable to reach consensus on a protocol regarding mines other than anti-personnel landmines in the context of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects. By blocking roads and general access to and from certain areas, mines other than anti-personnel landmines prevent effective humanitarian action on the ground. Furthermore, they may lead to the isolation of the population, hampering the development of State infrastructures in the affected region and thus undermining State authority.

2. Assistance

In 2012, Portugal continued its cooperation with Mozambique regarding landmine clearance and disposal, namely, by granting access to maps and relevant cartography, copies of which were made available to the authorities of Mozambique.

In this context, a delegation of Mozambique from the National Demining Institute visited the Portuguese Tropical Research Institute, a research and development public institution which has a vast cartographic archive (Overseas Historical Archive), as well as the Archives of the Ministry of National Defence.

Furthermore, in the past, Portugal has provided technical assistance in the field of mine detection and clearance, in the framework of IFOR (Bosnia) and KFOR (Kosovo) and training in demining activities in Guinea-Bissau, and between 2007 and 2010, Portugal has invested a total sum of €22.435 on anti-personnel mine-clearance projects in Angola and other developing countries.

Portugal can provide assistance upon request and depending on the availability of adequate funding. Portuguese Armed Forces experts are qualified in mine detection and clearance. The equipment used in mine detection and clearance includes electronic search means, explosive ordnance disposal/improvised explosive device disposal, operator suits, explosive ordnance disposal/improvised explosive device disposal X-ray (real time), dearmers, mechanical devices, handheld metal and multi-sensor systems.

3. National implementation

In 2009, Portugal adopted a "National strategy for security and development", which focuses on coherence and efficiency, and ensures better coordination of all the Portuguese programmes. The strategy also promotes a broader approach and reinforces the priority of human security as a major goal in Portugal's cooperation policy.

Qatar

[Original: English]
[14 May 2013]

The State of Qatar enjoys stability and a high level of security, as well as good relations with its neighbours. It does not get involved in regional disputes. It acceded to all the conventions on the prohibition of weapons. It only possesses traditional weapons to the extent that it is necessary for its security in the light of the situation in the region. Expenses on armaments represent a tiny part of its overall budget. The State of Qatar focuses on enhancing all that can serve the interest of its citizens, be it health, education or culture, as well as development projects to serve future generations. Moreover, great importance is attached to development and basic infrastructure projects.

Spain

[Original: Spanish]
[3 December 2012]

Spain recognizes fully the need to take effective measures linking disarmament and development, to ensure that these two elements, which share a common focus, are mutually reinforcing.

Suffering and casualties resulting from armed conflict affect civilians the most, inhibit economic development and reconstruction, and hamper access to prosperity in many parts of the world.

Spain has historically reaffirmed its firm commitment to disarmament and development, adopted legislative and operational measures, and promoted active disarmament and development policies in other geographical areas.

Domestically, Spain has one of the most advanced pieces of legislation in the field of disarmament, which exceeds the requirements established by international treaties and commitments binding Spain. It also has historically made a considerable effort to contain its military expenditures, which represent about 0.56 per cent of gross domestic product in the current year.

Internationally, Spain has been doing its utmost to help in an effective and coordinated manner to address the challenge of the critical issues of development and disarmament.

This approach is reflected clearly in Spain's position on cooperation with regard to non-proliferation and disarmament concerning weapons of mass destruction. Spain has ratified all treaties prohibiting or limiting the development, production, stockpiling, possession and use of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, or calling for the destruction of such weapons. It promotes the development of legislation on and the universalization of these treaties, and has made a commitment to provide assistance to States and international organizations responsible for their supervision and application.

With regard to the prohibition and total elimination of anti-personnel mines and other weapons with similar effects, Spain's attitude has always been to promote universalization of the Ottawa Convention of 1997, to which Spain is a party. Act No. 33/98, of 5 October, on the total prohibition of anti-personnel mines is the domestic legal instrument through which the obligations imposed on States under the Convention are incorporated into our legal system and given broad application and scope. Spain complies strictly with the provisions of the Convention and has adopted appropriate measures that totally prohibit all use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines. On 3 October 2000, it completed the destruction of its mine stockpiles — with the exception of the 4,000 units which it had retained for experimentation in demining materials and techniques — leaving a current stockpile of 1,710 units. Along with other Governments, Spain also promotes the approval of United Nations resolutions urging all countries to adopt these types of measures.

With regard to cluster munitions, Spain participated in the entire negotiating process of the Convention on Cluster Munitions until its adoption in Dublin on 30 May 2008; signed the Convention on 3 December 2008 in Oslo; and deposited

the ratification instrument on 17 June. The Convention entered into force for Spain on 1 August 2010.

Spain was the tenth signatory country to ratify the Convention and, in March 2009, before the Convention entered into force, its armed forces destroyed their entire arsenal of cluster munitions, with the exception of those which, in accordance with article 3.6 of the Convention, may be retained for the development of and training in cluster munition detection, clearance or destruction techniques, or for the development of countermeasures. Currently, Spain's armed forces have 646 mortar rounds and 10 air-dropped bombs to that end.

Spain has also provided the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) with a centre of excellence against improvised explosive devices, which has a multinational workforce of 58 (32 national and 26 international staff), and is a reference in the alliance against improvised explosive devices. In November 2010, the North Atlantic Council approved the centre's accreditation as a NATO centre of excellence and its start-up as an international military organization.

In the context of the European Union, Spain fully supports the European Union Joint Action of 28 November 1997 on anti-personnel mines, which covers actions in such places as Mozambique, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Central America and Angola. In this regard and strictly in line with its development assistance policy, Spain continues to promote humanitarian mine clearance efforts and multilateral actions needed to develop technologies for the location, disposal and destruction of mines currently deployed in other countries. It also continues to provide support and assistance for the training of expert officials in demining and victim assistance and physical and psychological recovery (awareness, education and rehabilitation of affected populations). Spain has contributed explosive ordnance disposal teams that have carried out demining work in sensitive areas as part of the KFOR,[5] SFOR,[6] Althea,[7] International Security Assistance Force and United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon deployments.

At the initiative of the Prime Minister, the International Demining Centre was established in 2002 with the aim of becoming the international reference in humanitarian demining. It offers various teaching and research capabilities in keeping with United Nations standards. During the period covered in the present report (2012), the Centre delivered a course for humanitarian demining instructors to staff from member countries of the Organization of American States, which was co-funded by the Defence Ministry of Spain and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation. The Agency's funding was provided through the International and Latin American Foundation for Public Administration and Policies. This course is valued at close to 150,000 euros.

In short, all these actions reflect Spain's financial and technical support for existing programmes. Spain also contributes to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Demining.

The linkage between development and disarmament can also be seen in Spain's policy to control the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. Spain fully implements the plan of action developed at the United Nations

[5] KFOR from 2009 without Spanish personnel.

[6] The SFOR command was replaced by that of the European Union's Operation Althea.

[7] From 2010 without Spanish units.

Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in July 2001. Most of the plan's provisions have a lower level of requirement compared to the set of rules being applied by Spain currently. Spain is also bound by the European Union Code of Conduct on Arms Exports, adopted by the Council of the European Union in 1998, concerning the approval or rejection of exports of defence-related or dual-use materials.

To control the trade in arms, Spain has established a reliable system whereby the Inter-Ministerial Regulatory Board for External Trade in Defence-Related and Dual-Use Materials conducts compulsory and binding reviews of administrative authorizations relating to trade in defence-related and dual-use materials. To authorize these import and export operations, the Board takes into consideration the following instruments that ensure that exported weapons do not fall into the hands of countries or organizations that impede the free development of their people:

- European Union Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP defining common rules governing the control of exports of military technology and equipment
- European Union Code of Conduct on Arms Exports
- Act No. 53/2007, of 28 December, on the control of foreign trade in defence-related and dual-use materials, further elaborated in Royal Decree No. RD 2061/2008.

With regard to its foreign operations, Spain devotes significant human and technical military resources to the development of disarmament, peacekeeping and assistance missions throughout the world. It supports and has participated in initiatives undertaken by the United Nations, NATO and the European Union in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Angola, Mozambique, Central America, Lebanon, the Gulf of Eden and Afghanistan. There are currently some 2,500 Spanish troops, security and police officers participating in peacebuilding, development and reconstruction missions in conflict-affected areas beyond Spanish borders.

Lastly, Spain reaffirms its determination to continue its efforts to ensure that disarmament and development are two of the pillars supporting a stronger international community and the stability and prosperity of its peoples. The central role of the United Nations and its competent organs in this regard should continue to be enhanced in pursuance of the overall goal of promoting international peace and security.